

be appraised by assessing boards, which should be in session for at least a part of each year. Their proceedings and deliberations should be open to the public; and power should be given for the employment of a representative of the public interests at hearings before them. In making assessments, all property should be appraised at not less than its salable value.

Second—The present laws for assessing the property of all public service corporations should be so changed as to compel the assessment of those properties at their salable value as going concerns, and to prevent their evasion of just taxation.

Third—To prevent evasion of state taxes by discriminating valuations, a separation of the sources of state and local revenues should be made. We, therefore, heartily indorse the constitutional amendment now pending before the people and to be voted on at the coming election, which permits classification of property for taxation.

Fourth—We favor the constitutional amendment for single liability of stockholders and oppose those for the veto power and representation of all counties and classification of cities.

Fifth—All public service corporations should be required by law to make sworn public reports, and the power of visitation and examination over such corporations should be given to the proper auditing officers to the end that the true value of the privileges held by such corporations may be made plain to the people.

Sixth—Denouncing the acceptance of free passes and other favors from

railroads by public officers or employes, and declaring that this should be adequate ground for their removal, we pledge the democratic party of Ohio to the enactment of laws giving the people of the state the benefit of a uniform rate of railroad fare at 2 cents per mile.

Seventh—The denial of the right of peaceable persuasion in times of labor disturbances is a denial of the right of free speech. Government by injunction, if persisted in, will wreck the liberties of the people.

Eighth—We favor absolute home rule for counties, cities and villages, with reference to their local affairs; and demand that the merit system of civil service in cities, as now in use in fire and police departments, be strengthened and perfected, and be extended to other municipal departments, particularly to municipal water and lighting plants already authorized by law, and to street car and all other public service plants as they may hereafter be established under municipal ownership and operation.

Ninth—The municipal code should be so amended as to require all ordinances granting, renewing, extending or modifying franchises shall be inoperative until confirmed by a majority vote of the people of the municipality, and to prohibit perpetual franchises altogether. We pledge ourselves also to the principle of the initiative and referendum in all other matters of legislation. In doing this, we emphasize our faith in the integrity of the people and our belief that they should be permitted to retain in their own hands as much of their sovereign power as is compatible with the convenient transaction of public business.

Tenth—Whereas railroad and mining corporations have gone into the business of insuring against accidents and death among their employes, fixing the rates of insurance arbitrarily, and compelling employes, as a condition of employment, not only to invest in such insurance, but also to waive all claims for injury sustained in the course of their employment, both in their own behalf and in that of their dependents; and, whereas, such contracts of waiver are opposed to public policy; therefore, we favor the enactment of laws making null and void all contracts by employes of railroads and mining corporations and of other employers, for the waiver or forfeiture of claims for injuries sustained in such employment.

Eleventh—Among the most important subjects to come before the legislature at its next session is a proposal to enact a general law for the regulation of the public school system of the state. We hereby pledge every democrat who may be elected to the legislature to work for the enactment of a school law that shall preserve the principle of home rule in school matters and safeguard the children of the state and their parents from the frauds and extortions of book trusts. In this we invite the co-operation of every citizen who believes in the purity of that great American institution—the public school.

Twelfth—Under the long-continued rule of the republican organization in the state, scandalous corruption has grown up in the administration of county affairs by reason of the so-called fee system. We pledge the untiring opposition of the democratic party to this system. We charge that the action of the republican legislature in passing an invalid law purporting to be aimed at this evil, was merely a subterfuge, and that the law was never intended to correct the evils and restore a reasonable and economical salary system. We call upon the governor and auditor of state, as well as the prosecuting attorney in each county, to proceed at once to investigate the widespread abuse of the fee system and to visit strict justice upon guilty officials.

Thirteenth—Until United States senators are required by amendment of the federal constitution to be elected

by popular vote, nominations of candidates for United States senator should be made by state conventions.

Upon these principles of home rule and just taxation, and to the accomplishment of these purposes in municipal and state affairs, we invite the co-operation of all citizens of Ohio, regardless of their party affiliations or personal views on national questions, hereby solemnly pledging our candidates to the faithful observance of this platform of principles and declaration of purposes, both in letter and in spirit.

Resolved, That we approve of the improvement of the Ohio river, so that it shall continue navigable for boats of the heaviest draught during the entire open season, and of the improvement and maintenance and preservation of the canals of the state.

The democrats of Ohio, in convention assembled, send cordial greeting to William Jennings Bryan, the great leader of the party in two national campaigns and always an unwavering and eloquent advocate of true democracy; and we extend to him a grateful welcome in his proposed visit to Ohio on August 31 and September 1 and 2 in the interest of those principles for the triumph of which he has so gallantly led the fight.

Greensburg (Pa.) Democrat: The widespread and deep interest already being evinced by the republican journals in the democratic candidate for president, next year, indicates pretty clearly that they do not anticipate a lifeless campaign or a "walk-over" for Roosevelt.

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